

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02
AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 /090 W
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R 031523Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5809
INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06453

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, PINT, CZ
SUBJ: WFTU CONGRESS IN PRAGUE
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REF: (A) PRAGUE 799; (B) BRUSSELS 4276; (C) BRUSSELS 4966

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE:

1. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN HERE, ONLY A FEW AFFILIATES OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)

WILL SEND FRATERNAL DELEGATES TO THE APRIL 16-23 CONGRESS OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) IN PRAGUE, ACCORDING TO ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY VANDERVEKEN. ADVISED THAT WFTU VICE PRESIDENT BORIS AVERYANOV IS TELLING PEOPLE THAT "ABOUT NINETY ORGANIZATIONS" AFFILIATED WITH THE ICFTU WOULD BE REPRESENTED, VANDERVEKEN LAUGHED AND SAID, "THAT'S PRACTICALLY EVERYBODY" (THE ICFTU CURRENTLY CLAIMS 118 AFFILIATES, INCLUDING 10 FROM LEBANON.)

2. AVERYANOV MAY BE COUNTING PEOPLE WHO WILL COME ON THEIR OWN, WITHOUT THE BLESSING OF THEIR ORGANIZATION. GENERAL SECRETARY DEBUNNE OF THE BELGIAN FGTB MENTIONED TO US (REFTELS B AND C) THAT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE CASE OF HIS OWN FEDERATION.

3. OTHER WFTU CONGRESS TIDBITS:

--JEF HOUTHUYS, PRESIDENT OF THE BELGIAN CSC, TOLD USEC LABOR ATTACHE MARCH 30 THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE REPRESENTED AT PRAGUE. HE CONFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), OF WHICH HE IS A VICE PRESIDENT, WOULD BE REPRESENTED THERE AT THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL, PROBABLY BY ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY GERARD FONTENEAU (WHO HAILS FROM THE FRENCH CFDT).

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END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

--IN THE VIEW OF MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION, THE BIG QUESTION IS WHAT THE FRENCH CGT WILL DO AT PRAGUE, AND AFTER. ACCORDING TO HINTERSCHIED, THE RUSSIANS, THROUGH AVERYANOV, HAVE OVER THE PAST YEAR TAKEN TIGHTER CONTROL OVER THE WFTU, MUCH TO THE DISCOMFORT OF THE CGT. IT IS "NOT TO BE EXCLUDED" THAT THE CGT WILL LEAVE THE WFTU, AND THAT THE RUSSIANS WILL SPEED THE CGT DEPARTURE "RATHER THAN HAVE A FIFTH COLUMN IN PRAGUE," HINTERSCHIED TOLD US RECENTLY. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT HIS INFORMATION MAY BE OUT OF DATE, SINCE HIS SOURCE ON CGT-WFTU PROBLEMS COMPLETELY CLAMMED UP ABOUT A MONTH AGO, FOR REASONS THAT HINTERSCHIED CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW. MORRIS

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